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WESTERN BIRDS

Volume 4, Number 3, 1973

NUMBERS OF MARINE BIRDS BREEDING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

David G. Ainley and Michael C. Whitt

The breeding populations of marine birds on the Farallon Islands, San Francisco County, have been documented for almost 120 years, and as a result are among the best historically documented avian populations in North America (Ainley and Lewis in press). Yet, almost surprisingly, next to nothing is known of the history of marine bird populations elsewhere on the Pacific coast of California, and only recently, from the work of Osborne and Reynolds (1971), do we have knowledge on present marine bird stocks. Our little knowledge in this matter is unfortunate because marine birds have been and hopefully will remain an important part of California's marine resources which in their turn are so important to the well-being of the state. With the fact in mind that marine birds are very susceptible to oil at sea (see Bourne 1970, Ainley and Lewis in press) and other pollutants (see Gress et al. 1971, Schreiber and Risebrough 1972, Coulter and Risebrough 1973), it is propitious that quantification of California's marine bird resources be attempted. Soon the Alaskan oil fields will be exploited and off-shore drilling in California will resume, resulting in marine transport of oil at a rate far above present or previous levels. Much of the oil will pass along the California coast bound for refineries in the San Francisco Bay Area and farther south. Periodic censuses of marine bird populations in the future should be encouraged at regular intervals.

The estimates presented here span the years 1969 to early 1972 and are, hopefully, just a beginning. Ideally, future counts should be coordinated, should occur in the same year at roughly the same time, and should be carried out using standard techniques that do not disturb the birds. In any case, only unusual conditions would cause a great difference in populations over three to four years, and to our knowledge, outside of a spectacular increase in murre numbers (Ainley and Lewis

in press), no such event occurred in the years 1969 through 1971. The 1971 San Francisco Oil Spill did exact a heavy toll in marine bird lives but the heavily affected species or populations did not include those reported on here (Smail et al. 1972). Figures for birds in San Francisco County (entirely from the Farallones) are taken from Ainley and Lewis (in press) most of which are for 1971 with the exception of 1972 figures for Leach's and Ashy Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa* and *O. homochroa*), Common Murres (*Uria aalge*), and Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*). However, not reported on previously but included here are results of our censuses taken in April 1972 at the small colonies on the North Farallon Islands. The 1971 estimate of Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleutica*) at the Farallones is from Manuwal (1972). Figures for Marin County are mostly from 1972 and for the most part are presented here for the first time (Table 1). We compiled them as follows. Species at the Point Reyes Headland and at Bird Rock/Tomales Point were censused on 3 July at which time all species had large chicks. Counts were made with binoculars from a boat on a flat-calm day. Most figures are based on direct counts of occupied nests or parent-chick groups. Murres in the dense colony below the Point Reyes lighthouse were counted by visually blocking off groups of 100 individuals. These murre counts were increased by two-thirds to allow for the fact that at mid-day in early July usually only one murre parent stays with its chick while the other is away feeding (Point Reyes Bird Observatory unpublished data). This figure was then divided by two to determine the number of breeding pairs. Species on the rocks off Double Point (Point Reyes National Seashore) were censused on 15 April 1971 at 08:00 from the cliffs above; counts of birds on the rocks

Table 1. The number of breeding pairs of marine birds on the Pacific coast of Marin County. Most of the counts were made in 1972 except for censuses at Double Point done in 1971 and those for Bear Valley rocks done by Osborne and Reynolds (1971) in 1969. See Figure 1 for location of breeding sites.

SPECIES	NUMBERS PER BREEDING SITE (Breeding Pairs)					SPECIES TOTALS
	Tomales Point	Bird Rock	Pt. Reyes Headland	Bear Valley	Double Point	
Ashy Storm-Petrel		5				5
Brandt's Cormorant			480	15	170	665
Pelagic Cormorant	86		264	10	40	400
Black Oystercatcher		3	3		1	7
Western Gull		30	13		50	93
Common Murre			3820	200	700	4720
Pigeon Guillemot	4	12	24		1	41
BREEDING SITE TOTALS	90	50	4604	225	962	5931

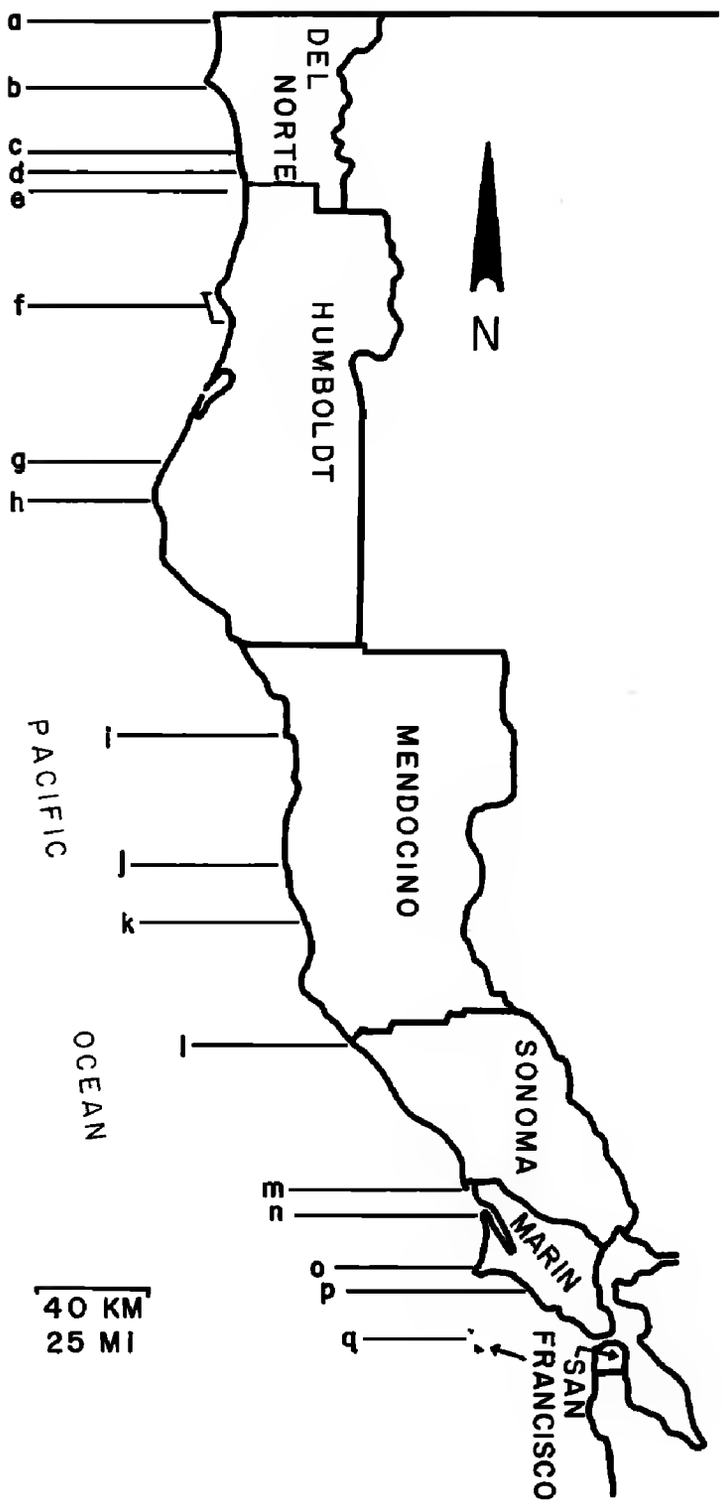

Figure 1. The major marine bird breeding sites in the six northern Pacific coast counties of California. Letters designate the breeding sites censused by us and by Osborne and Reynolds (1971) during the years 1969 to 1972. They are as follows: a. Hunter Rocks and Prince Island; b. Castle Island; c. False Klamath Rock; d. White Rock; e. Redding Rock; f. White Rock, Green Rock, Flat-iron Rock, Pilot Rock, and Little River Rock; g. False Cape Rocks; h. Sugarloaf Rock and Steamboat Rock; i. Cape Viscaino; j. Goat Island; k. Devil's Basin Rock and White Rock; l. Gualala Point Island; m. Bodega Rock; n. Tomales Point and Bird Rock; o. Point Reyes Headland; p. Bear Valley Rocks and Double Point Rocks; q. Farallon Islands.

off Bear Valley, a few miles north of Double Point, are taken from Osborne and Reynolds (1971); and those for Ashy Storm-Petrels at Bird Rock are from Ainley and Osborne (1972). These censuses for Marin County are reviewed in greater detail in an unpublished report deposited at the National Seashore Headquarters and at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Ainley MS). Finally, figures for Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties are for 1969 and are taken from Osborne and Reynolds (1971). These authors also gave figures for San Francisco and Marin Counties but because of the great discrepancy between figures for 1969 and those for 1971 - 72, which can not be logically explained on the basis of natural rates of increase, we considered their 1969 counts to be questionable. For example, they quote 2,500 pairs of Brandt's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) for the Farallones in 1969, compared to 12,000 pairs quoted by Ainley and Lewis (in press) for 1971. In addition, they did not describe census dates or techniques. This information might have offered clues to reasons for the differences. On the other hand, their figures for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties were also used by Osborne (1971). He described census dates and techniques for breeding colonies in those two counties, where he apparently was involved in intensive work over a long period.

The breeding colonies included in this summary are shown in Figure 1; a summary of results from population censuses is given in Table 2. There are minor breeding rocks, in all northern California counties except San Francisco and Marin, that are not included in this summary. These rocks are listed by Osborne and Reynolds (1971) but they did not disclose information on species or numbers present on each rock. Additional scientific names of species listed in the summary are: Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (*O. furcata*), Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*), Pelagic Cormorant (*P. pelagicus*), Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*), Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*), and Tufted Puffin (*Lunda cirrhata*).

It is readily apparent from comparison of figures in Table 2 that the Farallones are extremely important as a breeding grounds for northern California's marine bird populations. Numbers of birds breeding on these islands are almost 30% greater than the total for the five other counties combined. The importance of the Farallones is further indicated by the fact that from Osborne and Reynolds (1971) we learn that relatively few breeding colonies of marine birds exist in the nine California coastal counties south of San Francisco. They did not census the Channel Islands. Just making a guess, considering colonies to the south including those of the Channel Islands, perhaps about half of the breeding marine birds in the state of California presently nest on the Farallones. This does not include Western Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), California Gulls (*Larus californicus*), and other species that breed inland

Table 2. The number of breeding pairs of marine birds in the six northern Pacific coast counties of California. Figures for Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties are for 1969 and are from Osborne and Reynolds (1971). Year and source of other counts are as follows: a. 1971 count (Ainley and Lewis in press); b. 1972 count (Ainley and Lewis in press); c. 1971 count (Manuwal 1972); d. 1972 count (Ainley and Osborne 1972); e. 1969 counts (Osborne and Reynolds 1971), and 1971 and 1972 counts (this paper, Table 1); f. 1972 count (this paper, Table 1).

SPECIES	NUMBERS PER COUNTY (Breeding Pairs)						SPECIES TOTALS
	San Francisco	Marin	Sonoma	Mendocino	Humboldt	Del Norte	
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel					130	50	180
Leach's Storm-Petrel	700[b]				5150	2500	8350
Ashy Storm-Petrel	2000[b]	5[d]					2005
Double-crested Cormorant	35[a]				26	94	155
Brandt's Cormorant	12000[a]	665[e]	650	925	930	767	15937
Pelagic Cormorant	1100[a]	400[e]		75	252	113	1940
Black Oystercatcher	20[b]	7[f]	1	1	3	3	35
Western Gull	11000[a]	93[f]		20	229	684	12026
Common Murre	14000[b]	4720[e]			14200	25200	58120
Pigeon Guillemot	1000[a]	41[f]			129	179	1349
Cassin's Auklet	52750[c]				25	1000	53775
Rhinoceros Auklet	3[b]					150	153
Tufted Puffin	30[b]				9	20	59
COUNTY TOTALS	94638	5931	651	1021	21083	30760	154084

in California and that are marine birds only during the winter. It is surprising that, to our knowledge, a complete numerical inventory of the marine birds of the California Channel Islands has never been attempted. We urge that such a task be undertaken before too much longer and that inventories such as presented in this paper be undertaken soon for the other coastal counties of California.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924

A LOOK AT THE TREE SPARROW IN CALIFORNIA

Guy McCaskie

Grinnell and Miller (1944) considered the Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) a rare winter visitor to California, indicating it occurred chiefly in the northeastern plateau region. However, they cite but two records for that region: an undated specimen from Fort Cook, Shasta County, and two specimens, along with others seen, from the area at the north end of Honey Lake, Lassen County, in January and February 1936. In addition they refer to a specimen taken in Pacific Grove, Monterey County, on 13 October 1916, and another specimen taken in Riverside, Riverside County, on 7 February 1888, along with a doubtful record from Butte County and an erroneous record from Alameda County.

Since 1944 additional records have been reported. Stager (1946) reported the capture of an individual that came aboard a ship some 50 miles south of the Golden Gate, and 30 miles offshore, on 14 May 1946. Sabine (1955) indicated a vagrant Tree Sparrow was marked at Deep Springs School, Inyo County, while studying Oregon Juncos (*Junco oreganus*) there during the winter of 1948-49. Wauer (1962) collected one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo County, on 10 November [1961]. VanVelzen (1967) reported the banding of one at Point Reyes, Marin County, on 11 October 1965. McLean (1969) collected one in Deep Springs Valley, Inyo County, on 13 November 1948. In addition *Audubon Field Notes* (*American Birds* since 1971) contains a number of references to Tree Sparrows in California, and at least two unpublished specimens exist in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley (see appendix).

Jewett et al. (1953) considered the Tree Sparrow a fairly regular winter resident in eastern Washington from September to April with extreme dates of 7 September and 10 April, and Wahl and Paulson (1972) indicated it also occurs rarely in the lowlands west of the Cascade Range in winter. In Oregon Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) considered the Tree Sparrow an irregular winter visitor east of the Cascades, with but one record for the coast, and all records falling between 23 October and 9 April. Bertrand and Scott (1971) indicated it is rare but regular in eastern Oregon, and accidental along the coast. Strauch (1963) banded one near Corvallis in western Oregon on 18 November 1962. Burleigh (1972) found it to be a fairly common winter resident throughout Idaho with dates of occurrences ranging from 13 October to 11 April.

In Nevada, Linsdale (1951) felt the Tree Sparrow was of more regular occurrence during the winter than the two published reports would indicate. Ryser (1970) considered it a rare winter visitor state-

wide. Austin and Bradley (1971) listed it as a transient to Clark County in extreme southern Nevada between 20 September and 18 April, undoubtedly based on the records reported by Austin (1969). In Arizona, Phillips et al. (1964) considered the Tree Sparrow an uncommon winter resident to the northern and eastern portion of the state with stragglers recorded south to around San Carlos in Gila County; it appears to be unrecorded in western Arizona south of the Grand Canyon.

With Tree Sparrows occurring regularly in the Great Basin portions of eastern Washington, eastern Oregon and throughout Idaho, and with individuals pushing all the way to southern Nevada and extreme northwestern Arizona, it appears likely some would regularly reach eastern California as the birds move south through the Great Basin. In Lassen County Tree Sparrows have been found between 10 December and 5 March with as many as five individuals together; all the records are from the farmland along the northern edge of Honey Lake, and it would not be surprising to learn it is of annual occurrence there. In Inyo County it has been recorded almost annually since 1961, and is undoubtedly regular in very limited numbers, with three together being the largest group so far recorded. All the records fall between 16 October and 22 January with most being for November, and all are from oasis situations. To the south in eastern San Bernardino County there are four recent November records from desert oases indicating some regularity in occurrence. A bird seen near Arvin, Kern County, and another collected in Riverside, Riverside County, had probably reached these locations by moving slightly westward from the Great Basin flight line. Four birds in Imperial County during the late fall and early winter indicate the southern extreme this sparrow has reached when moving south through the Great Basin.

Since Tree Sparrows are rare in coastal Washington and classified as accidental in coastal Oregon one might expect few if any records for coastal California. However, such is not the case, for 26 individuals have so far been reported between Del Norte and San Diego counties. Most of these records are for the fall migration period with extreme dates of 4 October and 4 December. A bird at Olema, Marin County, on 27 December and another in Arcata, Humboldt County, 9 - 11 March 1973, were probably wintering in those areas, and individuals in Mill Valley, Marin County, from 2 January to 9 March, in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, from 10 January to 19 March, and in Arcadia, Los Angeles County, from 30 January to 2 February were clearly wintering locally. The spring records, all from the Farallon Islands and vicinity, are unexplainably late with dates ranging from 4 May to 14 June.

The occurrence of Tree Sparrows in eastern California indicates the western limit of the species' normal migration route and winter range in the Great Basin. Kern, Riverside and Imperial counties are the extreme

western and southern limits reached by birds moving down the Great Basin. It is interesting that the dates of occurrences for this area of California range from 16 October to 5 March, all within the extremes listed for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Nevada.

Along the coast of California fall migrant Tree Sparrows appear quite early, compared with those recorded in Washington and Oregon to the north, and with those recorded in eastern California. Eight of the 15 fall migrant records are for October with six of these in early October (4-13 October) including the one from San Diego. Wintering birds apparently depart early in the spring, as would be expected, with records to 9 and 19 March.

The six spring records from the vicinity of the Farallon Islands are unexplainably late, with one actually appearing in June. The latest records for Washington and Oregon are 10 and 9 April respectively, and the latest for Idaho is 11 April. The 18 April record for southern Nevada is exceptionally late with 26 March and 5 April being the other late spring records for that state. There are no records for California between 19 March and 4 May, and there appears to be but the one

Figure 1. Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) banded on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co., California on 4 October 1972.

Photo by Bruce Webb

Nevada record in any of the surrounding states later than early April. Where then do birds come from that establish these May and June records? Bailey and Niedrach (1965) indicated most Tree Sparrows are gone from Colorado by late April, but did cite a record for 21 May, and Bull (1964) indicated it is rare in the New York area after early April with late records for 8 and 12 May. Three of the California records are later than even these extreme dates, and the 14 June record may well be the latest south of the Canadian border.

APPENDIX

All records of Tree Sparrows through the winter of 1972-73 are listed by the counties from which they were reported. Those records for the eastern portion of California are listed first followed by the coastal records. An asterisk (*) indicates records supported by specimens. Individuals seen or collected by the author are so indicated (pers. obs.). Records appearing in *Audubon Field Notes* (AFN) and *American Birds* (AB) are followed by specific references, and two unpublished specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley (MVZ) are included. In some instances, where more specific information was available to the author, records appearing in AFN and AB have been modified to include this information. All California specimens have been identified as Western Tree Sparrows (*S. a. ochracea*).

Shasta County - *1 Fort Cook, prior to 1887.

Lassen County - *1 nr. Standish, 8 Jan. 1936; *1 nr. Wendel, 19 Feb. 1936; "some" nr. Wendel, 20 Feb. 1936 (all above from Grinnell and Miller 1944); *1 nr. Wendel, 10 Dec. 1950 (MVZ); 5 nr. Wendel, 5 March 1967 (AFN 21:444, 1967); 6 in two groups nr. Standish, 21 Dec. 1971 (AB 26:506, 1972); 5 nr. Standish, 19 Dec. 1972 (AB 27:510, 1973); 3 nr. Standish, 20 - 21 Dec. 1972 (AB 27:661, 1973).

Inyo County - *1 Deep Springs Valley, 13 Nov. 1948 (McLean 1969); 1 Deep Springs Valley, some time between 24 Oct. 1948 and 25 Jan. 1949 (Sabine 1955); *1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 10 Nov. 1961 (Wauer 1962); 1 Death Valley Nat. Mon., 11 Dec. 1963 (AFN 18:389, 1964); 1 (banded) Emigrant Ranger Station, 23 Nov. 1964 (AFN 19:418, 1965); 1 Emigrant Ranger Station, 27 Dec. 1964 (AFN 19:418, 1965); 1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 24 Nov. 1967 (AFN 22:92, 1968); 1 Emigrant Ranger Station, 7 Dec. 1968 (pers. obs.); *1 nr. Bishop, 1 Nov. 1969 (AFN 24:100c, 1970 - specimen in San Bernardino County Museum); 1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 29 Nov. 1969 (pers. obs.); 3 Furnace Creek Ranch, 17 Oct. 1970 (pers. obs.); 3 Furnace Creek Ranch, 14 Nov. 1970 (pers. obs.); 1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 15 Nov. 1970 (pers. obs.); 1 Mesquite Springs, 18 Nov. 1970 (AB 25:112, 1971); 1 Deep Springs Valley, 16 Oct. 1971 (AB 26:124, 1972); 2 Furnace Creek Ranch, 24 Oct. 1971 (pers. obs.); 2 Furnace Creek Ranch, 13 Nov. 1971 (pers. obs.); 1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 27 Nov. 1971 (AB 26:124, 1972); 1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 22 Jan. 1972 (AB 26:657, 1972); 2 (*1) Deep Springs Valley, 11 Nov. 1972 (AB 27:125, 1973 - specimen in San Bernardino County Museum); 1 Mesquite Springs, 23 Nov. 1972 (AB 27:125, 1973); 1 Furnace Creek Ranch, 26 Nov. 1972 (pers. obs.).

San Bernardino County - 1 Saratoga Springs, 28 Nov. 1969 (AFN 24:100c, 1970); 1 nr. Baker, 10 Nov. 1970 (AB 25:112, 1971); 1 Saratoga Springs, 23 Nov. 1971 (AB 26:124, 1972); 1 Kelso, 24 Nov. 1972 (AB 27:125, 1973).

Kern County - 1 Arvin, 1 Dec. 1968 (AFN 23:112, 1969).

Riverside County - *1 Riverside, 7 Feb. 1888 (Grinnell and Miller 1944).

Imperial County - 1 nr. Bard, 23 Nov. 1968 (AFN 23:91,1969);*1 nr. Westmorland, 28 Nov. 1968 (pers. obs. - specimen in San Diego Natural History Museum); 1 nr. Westmorland, 26-29 Dec. 1972 (AB 27:665, 1973); 1 nr. Westmorland 28 Jan. 1973 (pers. obs.).

Del Norte County - 1 nr. Klamath, 4 Dec. 1967 (pers. obs.).

Humboldt County - 1 Trinidad, 25 - 26 Oct. 1969 (AFN 24:95, 1970); 1 Bayside, 25 Nov. 1972 (AB 27:118, 1973); 1 Arcata, 9 - 11 March 1973 (AB 27:661, 1973).

Marin County - 1 Point Reyes, 11 Oct. 1965 (VanVelzen 1967); 1 Mill Valley, 2 Jan. - 9 March 1968 (AFN 22:476, 1968); 1 Two Rock Ranch, 9 Nov. 1969 (AFN 24:95, 1970); 1 Olema, 27 Dec. 1969 (AFN 24:537, 1970); 1 Inverness, 17 - 25 Nov. 1972 (AB 27:661, 1973).

San Francisco County - *1 Southeast Farallon Is., 23 May 1963 (MVZ); 1 Farallon Is., 16 May 1968 (AFN 22:574, 1968); 1 Farallon Is., 3 Nov. 1968 (AFN 23:105, 1969); 1 Farallon Is., 14 Nov. 1968 (AFN 23:105, 1969); 1 Farallon Is., 14 June 1969 (AFN 23:693, 1969); 1 Farallon Is., 4 - 7 May 1971 (AB 25:798, 1971); 1 Farallon Is., 23 - 26 May 1971 (AB 25:798, 1971); 1 Farallon Is., 11 Oct. 1971 (AB 26:118, 1972); 1 Farallon Is., 21 Oct. 1971 (AB 26:118, 1972); 1 (banded) Farallon Is., 4 - 5 Oct. 1972 (Figure 1) (AB 27:118, 1973); 1 Farallon Is., 5 Oct. 1972 (B. Webb pers. comm.).

Santa Cruz County - *1 at sea about 30 miles off Ano Nuevo Point, 14 May 1946 (Stager 1946); 1 Santa Cruz, 10 Jan. - 19 March 1968 (AFN 22:476, 1968).

Monterey County - *1 Pacific Grove, 13 Oct. 1916 (Grinnell and Miller 1944).

Los Angeles County - 1 Arcadia, 30 Jan. - 2 Feb. 1969 (AFN 23:523, 1969); 1 Hollywood, 21 - 22 Nov. 1970 (AB 25:112, 1971).

San Diego County - 1 Point Loma, 11 - 12 Oct. 1970 (pers. obs.).

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San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92112

Sketch by Tim Manolis

NOTES

CHARADRIIFORMES NEW TO NEVADA

The following records add further knowledge to the status of Charadriiformes in Nevada. Specimens and the original color transparencies of all photographs are deposited in the University of Nevada Museum of Biology (UNMB), University of Nevada, Reno. Species identification of all photographic records has been verified by Joseph R. Jehl Jr. and Guy McCaskie of the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM). Unless otherwise noted, all records are from Clark County, Nevada. Photographs were taken by the author.

RED PHALAROPE

On 26 July 1972 I collected a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) from a flock of about 250 phalaropes at the tailing ponds in Las Vegas Wash 10 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The flock consisted of 4 or 5 Red Phalaropes in winter plumage, 225 Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*), and 25 Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*). The specimen (UNMB 1748) was an adult male in breeding plumage (both testes 2.5 x 4.0 mm), moderately fat, with two feathers of the back in molt. The weight was not obtained.

This first specimen record for Nevada supports a sight and photographic record from the same location 5 June 1971 (Snider, Am. Birds, 25:781, 1971).

GLAUCOUS GULL

On 30 November 1972 Gertrude Lawson and I discovered a juvenal Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) resting ashore at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Nevada. The bird was in view about 3 minutes. I took 4 photographs before the bird was flushed by an approaching car. The accompanying photograph (Figure 1) was taken at that time. The following description was obtained:

> The bird was very large, very light grayish-white with some light brownish flecking on the body. The bill was very large, whitish with a black tip. The primaries were white. The tail was white with some light brownish flecking.

The bird was last seen on 16 December. This is the first Nevada record.

Figure 1. Juvenal Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada 30 November 1972.

Figure 2. Juvenal Thayer's Gull *(Larus thayeri)* at Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada 30 October 1971. Note the small headed and small billed appearance and the checkered pattern of the back.

Figure 3. Juvenal Thayer's Gull. Note the white wing linings, pattern of the wing coverts and the white tipped primaries.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL

R. W. Campbell (pers. comm.) reports he banded a Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) as a local (band 967-19765) at a colony 8 miles northwest of Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia 11 July 1971. The disarticulated remains of this bird were found one mile from the east shore of Lake Tahoe near Glenbrook, Douglas County, Nevada in late July 1972 by Tom Gorman of San Mateo, California. The band was recovered but the skeletal remains were left at the discovery site.

The presence of this species in Nevada was first noted on 30 October 1971 when M. Vincent Mowbray, John Koch and Glade Koch discovered a juvenal at Las Vegas Wash Marina, Lake Mead. On 5 November 1971 Nora Poyser, Pauline Long and I observed a juvenal, presumably the same bird, at the same location. Efforts to secure photographs failed. The following description was obtained:

> The bird was larger than a nearby Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and similar in color but larger than a nearby Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). The bill was large and black. The eye was dark. The body, primaries, and tail were a uniform gray-brown with some slightly darker brownish streaking on the back. The legs were pinkish-brown.

Subsequently, from one to three individuals were observed until 27 February 1972. During November and December of 1972 another juvenal appeared at the same site. These are the first Nevada records.

THAYER'S GULL

On 11 February 1972 I collected a juvenal Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) at the Silver State Disposal Company garbage dump about 10 miles east of Las Vegas, Nevada. The bird (UNMB 1746, female, weight 737.1 g) was prepared as a study skin by Fred Ryser, UNMB.

The presence of this species in Nevada was first noted 30 October 1971 when I photographed a gull I could not identify at Las Vegas Wash Marina, Lake Mead. The accompanying photographs (Figures 2, 3, and 4) were taken on that date. Duplicate sets of the original color transparencies are on deposit at SDNHM and the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Quebec. During December 1972 another juvenal appeared at the same site. These are the first Nevada records.

MEW GULL

On 9 January 1972 M. Vincent Mowbray and I discovered an immature Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) resting on the beach at Las Vegas Wash Marina, Lake Mead, Nevada. The accompanying photograph (Figure 5) was taken at that time. The following description was obtained:

> The bird was smaller than a nearby Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). The bird had a small black bill. The eye was dark. The head, neck, back, chest, sides and stomach were a uniform gray-brown. The tail was gray-brown with the terminal one-third banded by a dark gray-brown to black very narrowly tipped with buffy-white.

The Mew Gull in juvenal plumage most nearly appears like an immature Thayer's Gull, has a small, black bill and the tips of the rectrices are so narrowly tipped with buffy-white that these markings are easily missed.

The bird was last seen 27 February 1972. In November 1972 another juvenal of this species was sighted at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead by Mowbray. These are the first Nevada records.

Figure 4. Juvenal Thayer's Gull, flight. Note the light primaries and the banded tail.

Figure 5. Juvenal Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) at Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada 9 January 1972. Note the small black bill. Compare size to Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) on the left.

COMMON TERN

On 15 August 1972 I collected an adult Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) at the tailing ponds in Las Vegas Wash about 10 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The bird is now UNMB 1749 (female, weight not taken, heavily covered with unidentified ectoparasites, moderately fat). The tail was white with dark gray outer rectrices. The tarsi measured 20.5 mm. This is the first Nevada specimen.

Common Terns are probably overlooked among Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) by most observers in the state. In northern Nevada, McCaskie (pers. comm.) has observed the species in the Reno-Carson City-Lake Tahoe area. Ed Scovill of Boulder City, Nevada photographed the species in Iceberg Canyon of Lake Mead in May 1968 and at the 19-20 mile marker in Lake Mohave in May 1969. In southern Nevada, M. Vincent Mowbray and I have observed the species during spring and fall migrations for several years. In addition to the fall, 1971 and spring, 1972 observations at Lake Mead (Monson, Am. Birds 26:102, 793, 1972), I have observed Common Terns at the following Nevada locations: Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Churchill Co.—one 18 May 1971; Las Vegas Wash—seven 3 May 1964, six 14 September 1965, two 16 May 1967, two 23 August 1968, thirteen 24 August 1972; Pahranagat Lake near Alamo, Lincoln Co.—one 6 September 1973; Walker Lake, Mineral Co.—one 22 May 1970; and Cave Rock, Lake Tahoe, Douglas Co.—nine 20 May 1964.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank R. W. Campbell, M. Vincent Mowbray and Ed Scovill for use of their previously unpublished records; John Isola for permission to collect at the Silver State Disposal Company dump; Joseph Jehl and Guy McCaskie for species identification and verification of photographic records; and Fred Ryser for preparation of the specimen of Thayer's Gull. *C. S. Lawson, 509 Altamira Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89128.*

BIRD ARRIVAL DATES ON MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, OREGON

With increasing visitor use (46.2 percent increase from 1968 to 1971) on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon there is an increasing demand for information on the non-huntable avian species. Of the 28,159 people visiting the refuge in 1971, 84.3 percent were interested in non-consumptive recreation, primarily wildlife observations (refuge files).

Since 1956, refuge personnel have been keeping records on spring arrival dates for common migratory birds occurring in southeastern Oregon. The list following consolidates this information for the benefit of visitors interested in determining the most favorable period for observation of particular species.

It is evident from this data that most migratory waterfowl and large wading birds arrive on the refuge from mid March through the first week in April. Most shorebirds arrive in April, while peak passerine arrivals occur the last week of April and the first two weeks of May.

The authors wish to acknowledge Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife personnel who have contributed information. These include David Marshall, Eugene Kridler, John Scharff, C. Fred Zeillemaker, Harold Duebbert, Quentin Currey, Bruce Deuel, Walter Anderson and Sean Furniss. The authors also wish to thank Joseph Mazzoni for editing this report and Irma Gail for her typing assistance.

Table 1. Spring bird arrival dates at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, 1956 - 1971.

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*	8 Apr 69	30 May 64	30 Apr
Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*	19 Jan 56	20 Apr 62	4 Apr
Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*	28 Feb 63	4 Apr 62	22 Mar
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*	4 Mar 69	7 Apr 67	*19 Mar
White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	28 Feb 63	16 Apr 68	3 Apr
Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*	8 Mar 60	14 Apr 59	24 Mar
Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*	24 Mar 68,71	4 Apr 67	*30 Mar
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*	13 Apr 57,66	2 May 70	21 Apr
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*	7 Mar 66	10 Apr 67	31 Mar
American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*	5 Mar 68	28 Apr 63	12 Apr
White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*	18 Apr 59	24 May 67	7 May

NOTES

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*	5 Feb 64	6 Mar 67	24 Feb
Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens*	29 Jan 70	6 Mar 56	14 Feb
Ross' Goose *Chen rossii*	1 Mar 71	14 Apr 69	18 Mar
Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*	11 Mar 63	5 May 58	10 Apr
Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*	20 Feb 70	18 Mar 69	6 Mar
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*	9 Mar 68	5 Apr 62	19 Mar
Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	14 Mar 70	16 Apr 58	30 Mar
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	15 Mar 56	25 May 62	19 Apr
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*	10 Feb 70	19 Mar 66	6 Mar
Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*	7 Feb 59	28 Feb 57	20 Feb
Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*	12 Mar 70	13 May 67	22 Apr
Sora *Porzana carolina*	9 Apr 66	20 May 64	27 Apr
Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*	17 Feb 69	23 Feb 67	19 Feb
Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*	27 Feb 68	20 May 61	26 Apr
Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*	22 Mar 70	17 Apr 67	28 Mar
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*	25 Apr 70	11 May 68	3 May
Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*	21 Mar 58	21 Apr 67	11 Apr
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleucus*	22 Jan 63	7 Apr 67	23 Mar
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*	17 Apr 63	6 May 65	26 Apr
Dunlin *Calidris alpina*	16 Apr 59	16 May 66,71	5 May
Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*	16 Mar 59	30 Apr 58,60	4 Apr
Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*	2 Apr 66	4 May 67	19 Apr
Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*	27 Apr 69,71	18 May 59	4 May
American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*	19 Mar 58	14 Apr 67	29 Mar
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*	5 Apr 71	25 May 69	27 Apr

NOTES

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
Wilson's Phalarope *Steganopus tricolor*	2 Apr 64	7 May 60	26 Apr
Northern Phalarope *Lobipes lobatus*	6 May 71	30 May 64	13 May
California Gull *Larus californicus*	17 Feb 69	2 Apr 66	*12 Mar
Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarenis*	18 Feb 66	19 Mar 67	*1 Mar
Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*	11 Apr 70	3 May 58,64	23 Apr
Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*	27 Apr 69	30 May 64	10 May
Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*	15 Apr 71	5 May 63	27 Apr
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*	20 Apr 61	24 May 57	8 May
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*	23 Apr 59	12 May 61	3 May
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*	13 Feb 59	21 Apr 60	1 Apr
Burrowing Owl *Speotyto cunicularia*	27 Feb 70	20 Apr 67	31 Mar
Poor-will *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli*	14 Mar 64	28 May 71	3 May
Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*	21 May 61	28 May 64	26 May
Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufous*	21 Apr 59	25 May 62	1 May
Lewis' Woodpecker *Asyndesmus lewis*	14 Mar 70	4 May 62,63	21 Apr
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*	27 Mar 66	29 Apr 67	14 Apr
Hairy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos villosus*	30 Mar 70	13 Apr 68	4 Apr
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*	4 May 63	29 May 60	18 May
Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*	20 Apr 71	3 May 67	27 Apr
Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*	2 May 70	23 May 71	13 May
Say's Phoebe (1) *Sayornis saya*	13 Feb 69	13 Mar 62	27 Feb
Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*	29 Apr 69	27 May 62	10 May
Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*	22 Apr 62,66	10 May 64	1 May
Western Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*	23 Apr 70	30 May 66	*1 May
Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*	16 Apr 68	21 May 60,65	10 May

NOTES

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Nuttallornis borealis*	6 May 64	31 May 66	18 May
Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*	9 Mar 59,64	28 Apr 62	30 Mar
Tree Swallow (2) *Iridoprocne bicolor*	24 Feb 70	18 Mar 64	10 Mar
Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*	21 Apr 66	25 May 62	9 May
Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*	6 Mar 68	22 Apr 60	13 Apr
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*	27 Feb 67	19 Apr 62	8 Apr
Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*	29 Mar 64	28 Apr 65	14 Apr
Common Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*	10 Feb 71	3 Apr 69	16 Mar
Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*	29 Apr 68,71	18 May 63,69	6 May
Brown Creeper *Certhia familiaris*	21 Mar 70	3 May 67	17 Apr
Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*	27 Feb 68	5 May 62	29 Mar
Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*	21 Feb 68	10 Apr 64	13 Mar
Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*	7 Apr 71	24 May 66	6 May
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*	15 May 70	31 May 61	23 May
Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*	10 Feb 64	11 Mar 67,69	6 Mar
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3) *Regulus calendula*	21 Mar 70	21 Apr 65	4 Apr
Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*	13 Feb 69	16 Apr 67	15 Mar
Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*	28 Feb 68	31 May 62	29 Apr
Solitary Vireo *Vireo solitarius*	18 Apr 71	15 May 67	3 May
Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*	3 May 62	17 May 70	11 May
Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*	16 Apr 58,66, 68	11 May 59	24 Apr
Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*	16 Apr 61	8 May 64	27 Apr
Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*	16 Apr 71	8 May 64	26 Apr
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Myrtle Warbler *Dendroica coronata coronata*	29 Mar 66	15 May 65	29 Apr
Audubon's Warbler *D. c. auduboni*	30 Mar 68	22 Apr 63	9 Apr

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*	4 May 66	19 May 61,63	14 May
Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*	28 Apr 66	18 May 63	10 May
MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*	15 Apr 61	16 May 67	5 May
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*	22 Apr 57	20 May 64	4 May
Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*	7 May 68,69	19 May 66	12 May
Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*	19 Apr 63,68	12 May 64	3 May
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*	22 May 68	4 Jun 67	29 May
Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*	21 May 60,64	10 Jun 68	1 Jun
Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*	22 Feb 66	8 Mar 65	27 Feb
Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*	10 Mar 68	13 Apr 65	31 Mar
Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula bullocki*	25 Apr 59	14 May 65,67	6 May
Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*	12 Feb 69	25 Feb 66	15 Feb
Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*	17 Apr 66	13 May 60	1 May
Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*	28 Apr 69	15 May 61	3 May
Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*	20 Apr 64	2 Jun 68	17 May
Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*	24 Apr 66	25 May 65	6 May
House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*	10 Mar 65	16 May 61	14 Apr
Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*	28 Mar 66	11 May 69,71	29 Apr
American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*	7 Feb 70	15 May 67	25 Apr
Green-tailed Towhee *Chlorura chlorura*	2 May 71	24 May 66	14 May
Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*	25 Feb 63,69	19 Mar 62	5 Mar
Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*	8 Mar 56	12 Apr 62	21 Mar
Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*	13 Mar 63	28 Apr 62	1 Apr
Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*	19 Mar 71	5 May 62,67	1 May
Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli*	26 Feb 70	26 Apr 63	27 Mar

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*	14 Apr 71	11 May 63,68	28 Apr
Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*	13 Apr 66	19 May 64	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow (4) *Zonotrichia leucophrys*	5 Mar 68	13 Apr 62	23 Mar
Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*	22 Apr 60	28 May 61	6 May
Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*	16 Mar 69	27 Apr 68	14 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*	31 Mar 66	14 May 60	22 Apr

*Five-year average. All others are 16 year averages.

1. One record 18 December 1941.
2. One record 9 January 1958.
3. Records in December 1940, January 1941 and February 1941.
4. One record 28 January 1941.

Carroll D. Littlefield, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721 and Eldon L. McLaury, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oregon 97720.

A BAR-TAILED GODWIT RECORD FOR WASHINGTON

At approximately 16:00 on 4 September 1973 Cheryl and Norman Lavers and I were observing seabirds at the north jetty of Grays Harbor at Point Brown, Grays Harbor County, Washington. My attention was drawn to a shorebird crossing the periphery of my vision, flying behind and away from us, one or two meters above the beach. In flight it appeared brownish with a whitish area on the upper tail or rump. On alighting it immediately began foraging on the open upper beach, probing into deep, loose, dry sand which contained partially buried seaweed and beach litter.

Noting it was a godwit we followed it about 75 meters north up the beach. From 10 - 12 meters distance we could see it was a small godwit, standing perhaps 35 - 40 cm high, with a somewhat short, slightly upturned bill. When it moved it appeared to have a whitish tail barred with dusky brown. I observed the bird with 7X35 binoculars and 15-60X 60 mm spotting scope.

The bird was solitary and tame. With the aid of Tim Wahl we flushed it and determined it indeed had a whitish barred tail and rump. It had a prominent supercilliary stripe, mottled brownish-gray upperparts, and pale buff neck and breast becoming whitish on the belly. While there appeared to be some indistinct streaking, the sides were essentially clear buffy and lacked noticeable barring. Underwing coloration appeared a speckled grayish pattern, definitely lacking any suggestion of the cinnamon, pinkish or dusky coloration present in Marbled Godwits (*Limosa*

Figure 1. A Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) foraging on the open beach at Grays Harbor, Washington, on 4 September 1973.

Photo by Norman Lavers.

Figure 2. Bar-tailed Godwit in flight. Note the shape of the rump patch and extent of barring on the white of the rump.

Photo by Terence R. Wahl.

fedoa) and Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*). Distinct bold wingbars were lacking, but there were light areas at the base of the primaries which were darker than the secondaries. Basal half of the bill was flesh-colored, the tip was blackish. Legs were bluish.

When the bird flew we were confident it was a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). It circled us, landing within a few meters the first time, but flew north up the beach out of sight the second time it flushed. It was photographed (Figure 1) in full sunlight from approximately 11 - 12 meters with SLR cameras and 400 mm lenses. Flight photos (Figure 2) clearly show the tail and rump pattern, the latter with no clear unbarred white area, and legs barely extending beyond the tail. No sound was noted from the bird during the approximately twenty minutes it was under observation.

The absence of white extending upward onto the back from the rump area excludes the possibility of the dominant race *lapponica*, and the presence of barring on the white rump suggests the race *baueri* from eastern Siberia and western Alaska rather than *menzbieri* from central Siberia. Only two previous records are reported from south of the Alaskan breeding grounds on the Pacific coast: one collected at Colebrook, British Columbia, 30 October 1931 (Munro, Condor 37: 178, 1935 and Brooks, Condor 44:33, 1942), the other collected at Arcata, California, 17 July 1968 (Gerstenberg and Harris, Condor, 72:112, 1970). Both specimens are identified as *baueri*.

The weather pattern changed overnight and a blowing fog and light rain occurred the next day. The immediate area and other near-by shorebird habitats were searched this following day by us and others; although two Marbled Godwits were seen the Bar-tailed Godwit was not found. This is the first Washington record for the species. *Terence R. Wahl, 3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, Washington 98225.*

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